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COMINT REPORT

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ELECTRICAL RELEASE
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DIST: OSCAR ALFA/KILOSPECIAL LAOS SUMMARY, REPORT NUMBER SEVENTEEN

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- A. MILITARY

1. LAOTIAN DEVELOPMENTS

A. ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY

REPORTS FROM RLA HEADQUARTERS IN LUANG PRABANG THROUGH 23 MARCH INDICATED RLA FORCES WERE FACED WITH A WORSENING SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL. THE POST OF HUONG SAI (20.41N-21.62E) NORTH OF THE CAPITAL WAS BEING THREATENED BY REBEL TROOPS FROM FOUR DIRECTIONS; REBEL FORCES WERE REPORTEDLY WITHIN 10 MILES SOUTH OF LUANG PRABANG AND ANOTHER FORCE ABOUT 15 MILES TO THE EAST. A GROUP OF 300 VIET MINH TROOPS WERE REPORTED IN RESERVE IN THE NAM DAC (TH 3604) AREA, NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG, WHILE FORMER RLA COMMANDER COL. KHAM OUANE WAS REPORTED AS HAVING ARRIVED WITH FIVE COMPANIES, ABOUT 30 MILES NORTH OF HUONG SAI (3 [] LS/C101).

RLA MESSAGES CONTINUED TO REFLECT REBEL PRESSURE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE PHOU KIOUN JUNCTION OF ROUTE 7 AND 13, AND SOUTH OF XIENG KHOUANG IN THE THA VIANG-THA THOM AREA.

IN THE 3RD MILITARY REGION, A 22 MARCH MESSAGE FROM HQ 3RD MILITARY REGION TO VIENTIANE REPORTED THAT RADIO CONTACT WITH KHAM KEUT HAD BEEN OUT SINCE 0600 HOURS THAT DAY. AN AIRCRAFT WAS SENT ABOUT 1500 HOURS TO DROP CRYPTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL BUT FOUND NO ONE THERE. A THAI MESSAGE OF 25 MARCH REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO RADIO CONTACT AND SPECULATED THAT KHAM KEUT WAS UNDER REBEL CONTROL (2 [] LS/T1812-61, 2/0/SIO/T08-61).

REPORTS FROM HQ 4TH MILITARY REGION THROUGH 24 MARCH INDICATED WELL-ARMED VIET MINH AND PATHET LAO FORCES WERE MOVING TOWARD ATTOPEU AND THE AIRFIELD FROM THREE DIRECTIONS. ONE REBEL GROUP WAS REPORTEDLY 1 MILE FROM THE AIRFIELD WHILE ANOTHER WAS ABOUT TWO MILES FROM THE TOWN (2 [] LS/C192).

B. KONG LE/PATHET LAO

THE COMMUNICATIONS NET FIRST HEARD 16 JANUARY 1961 AND HERETOFORE IDENTIFIED AS SERVING KONG LE/PATHET LAO FORCES IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE SERVING

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KONG LE FORCES EXCLUSIVELY. ANALYSIS OF MESSAGE TEXTS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE NET INDICATE KONG LE AND PATHET IAO TROOPS ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE COORDINATED AT ALL LEVELS (2/0/LSG/R02-61)..

REPORTED KONG LE FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE PHOU KHOUN AREA WAS RELATIVELY LOW DURING THE PERIOD. ONE COMPANY (CAPT. THIAN'S) WAS IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING BACK TO THE PLATHE DES JARRES AREA (REASON UNKNOWN) BUT WAS HELD UP IN THE PHOU VIANG (TCH856) AREA BECAUSE TRUCKS WERE OUT OF GAS (2/RD/LSG/T263, T272-61).

THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN AMERICAN DAKOTA (C-47) AT PHONG SAVAN WAS REPORTED IN KONG LE COMMUNICATIONS ON 23 MARCH. SEVEN AMERICANS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND ONE (A MILITARY ATTACHE MAJOR STATIONED IN VIENTIANE) WAS CAPTURED AFTER PARACHUTING FROM THE PLANE (2/0/LSG/T17-61, 2/RD/LSG/T265, T266, T269, T270, T282-61).

THE ACTIVITY IN THE THIA VIANG AREA WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE CAPTURE OF NAM SANON FROM THE RIA/NEO TROOPS BY TWO COMPANIES OF THE KONG LE TROOPS ASSISTED BY ONE PATHET IAO BATTALION WITH 105's. THE ATTACK WAS INITIATED ON THE MORNING OF 24 MARCH AND KONG LE COMMUNICATIONS REPORTED ITS CAPTURE ON 25 MARCH (2/RD/LSG/T268, T276, T287, T297, T302-61). SINCE THE FALL OF NAM SANON RIA/NEO ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN RATHER LOW (2/RD/LSG/T311-61).

REFERENCE TO: (A) CODE CLERK TRAINING AT HANOI, WITH POSSIBLE PRELIMINARY TRAINING AT KHANG KHAY AND (B) INTELLIGENCE-AGENT TRAINING AT G-2, CHQ ON 1 APRIL WERE CONTAINED IN KONG LE COMMUNICATIONS OF 25 MARCH (2/RD/LSG/292-61) AND OF 27 MARCH (2/RD/LSG/T306, T310-61).

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C. DIPLOMATIC - NIL

2. NORTH VIETNAM

A. MILITARY

NORMAL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN RESUMED ON THE DRV MAINLINE MILITARY NETWORK FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF RADIO SILENCE FROM 231700 TO 261400Z MARCH. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RADIO SILENCE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

B. AIR - NIL

C. AIRLIFT ACTIVITY

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COMMUNIST FLIGHTS INTO THE NAM BAC AREA HAVE BEEN NOTED SINCE 29 JANUARY AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT PREVIOUS FLIGHTS AND CONTINUED PREFLIGHTS INTO THAT AREA ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INCREASING REBEL PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON LUANG PRABANG (SEE PARA 1, ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY, THIS SUMMARY).

3. TRANSPORT ACTIVITY

A. []

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B. SOVIET

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(SEE 3/ [] R471-61)

h. []

A. MILITARY

NO UNUSUAL OR SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH [] GROUND FORCE RADIO MORSE COMMUNICATIONS.

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